

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. In the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-4 are cancelled; Claims 5, 6 and 7 are being amended; and Claims 11-17 are newly added. Based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Rejections

In the Office Action of November 8, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,749,487 to Okuhata et al. and U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0162482 to Okuhata et al.

Cited References

U.S. Patent No. 6,749,487 ('487 Patent) and U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0162482 ('482 Application), both to Okuhata et al., disclose a method of polishing a glass substrate for information recording medium. See, Abstract ('487 Patent). The method includes a precision polishing step which has a first polishing step and a second polishing step. See, Col. 3, lines 33-36 ('487 Patent). Okuhata et al. disclose that at least one of the first polishing step and the second polishing step has a preceding polishing step and a succeeding polishing step. See, Col. 3, lines 36-39 ('487 Patent). The mean grain diameter of the abrasive grains in the succeeding polishing step is not more than in the preceding polishing step, and pressure at which the polishing members are pushed against the major surfaces is lower in the succeeding polishing step than in the preceding polishing step. Col. 3, lines 39-44 ('487 Patent). Neither the '487 Patent nor the '482 Application disclose specific features of the polishing pads used in the methods.

Claims 5-10

Independent Claim 5 has been amended to recite "a polishing portion" and "wherein said polishing portion is formed of a foam made of a synthetic resin having a 100% modulus of 11.8

MPa or less.” Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 4, lines 3-6 and page 15, lines 11-25.

As stated above, the Okuhata references do not disclose specific features of the polishing pads used in their methods. Accordingly, the Okuhata references do not teach or suggest the combination of elements claimed in Claim 5, which include contacting the surface of a lapped glass workpiece with a polishing portion of a polishing pad with a load of 35 to 70 gf/cm² on the lapped glass workpiece, wherein the polishing portion is formed from a foam made of a synthetic resin having a 100% modulus of 11.8 MPa or less. Claim 5 is thus allowable over the Okuhata references.

Claim 10 is dependent on, includes all of the limitations of Claim 5 and is allowable for the same reasons as stated above with respect to Claim 5. Moreover, Claim 10 includes additional limitation(s) that further distinguish over the Okuhata references.

Independent Claim 6 has been amended to recite “a polishing portion” and “wherein said polishing portion has a surface roughness with a maximum height of 70 µm or less.” Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 18, lines 5-10.

As previously stated, the Okuhata references do not disclose specific features of the polishing pads used in their methods. Consequently, the Okuhata references do not teach or suggest the combination of elements claimed in Claim 6, which include lapping a glass workpiece by use of a hard pad and a polishing agent containing particles of about 1.2 µm in average particle size; and polishing the glass workpiece obtained in said lapping by use of a polishing portion of a soft pad and a polishing agent containing particles of about 0.6 µm in average particle size, wherein said polishing portion has a surface roughness with a maximum height of 70 µm or less. For these reasons, Claim 6 is allowable over the Okuhata references.

Claims 7-9 are dependent on, include all of the limitations of Claim 6 and are allowable for the same reasons as stated above with respect to Claim 6. Moreover, Claims 7-9 include additional limitation(s) that further distinguish over the Okuhata references.

Newly Added Claims 11-17

Newly added Claims 11 and 12 are dependent on Claim 5 and Claim 6 respectively, include all the limitations of Claim 5 and Claim 6 respectively and are allowable for the same reasons as stated above with respect to Claim 5 and Claim 6 respectively.

Newly added Claim 13 is directed to a method for manufacturing a glass substrate for use in a data recording medium. Claim 13 includes a combination of features, including specific features of a polishing pad with similar language as Claim 5 and Claim 6. Thus, Claim 13 is allowable over the Okuhata references for the same reasons as stated above with respect to Claim 5 and Claim 6.

Claims 14-17 are dependent on Claim 13, include all of the limitations of Claim 13 and are allowable for all the same reasons. Moreover, Claims 14-17 include additional limitations that further distinguish over the Okuhata references.

No fees are believed to be due with this communication. If, however, any fees are due, please debit such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1419. Credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1419.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

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By: *R. A. P.*

René A. Pereyra, Esq.
Registration No. 45,800
3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411
Aurora, Colorado 80014
Phone: (303) 338-0997
Fax: (303) 338-1514